Locations for Sixteen Central Universities

2204. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high-powered committee constituted by the Central Government is all set to begin state-hopping in order to identify locations for Sixteen Central Universities in the Eleventh Five Year Plan that Government has promised to the country;

(b) whether States are in the process of identifying the towns or cities where these universities are slated to start soon;

(c) whether the Ministry has constituted a team comprising Joint Secretary (Higher Education), UGC Official, a State Government representative and the Vice-Chancellor of a University located in the State;

(d) whether this Committee has recommended the locations; and

(e) what are the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The requirement of a new central university is estimated at about 500 acres of land which the concerned State Government will have to provide free of cost. The concerned State Governments were accordingly requested to indicate suitable sites for establishment of these Universities. In order to evaluate competing proposals in regard to location in each state and to assess suitability of sites indicated by State Government, site visit in each State is unavoidable and cannot be termed "State-hopping". The Central Government has constituted Site Selection Committees comprising Joint Secretary (Higher Education), a representative of the UGC, a representative of the concerned State Government and a Vice-Chancellor of one of the existing Central Universities to visit the sites indicated by the State Governments. The Site Selection Committees has visited four States so far and has submitted recommendations only in respect of one University to be established in the State of Punjab.

Discrimination with SC/ST students in IITs

2205. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several students belonging to SC/ST categories having been held ineligible to continue studying in IITs owing to their failure to secure qualifying marks in periodical tests lodged complaints of discrimination/prejudice against the authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last four years indicating the steps taken, if any, pursuant to their complaints;

(c) the details of instances where complaints against authorities stood substantiated leading to reversal of disqualifications of SC/ST students; and

(d) the steps initiated, if any, to address the problems of students failing to meet the academic parameter after securing admission in IITs under reserve quota?